unnecessary and oppressive. Having been examined by the committee of the Board, and upon the success of such examination, having received their appointments, they are not willing to be subjected a second time to the same trial in order to retain their several positions. I am unable to state the source whence this idea has arisen. I know, however, that it has prevailed extensively among the teachers, and that it has been the occasion of considerable anxiety—so much so that the usual progress of improvement has been interrupted by it.

EXCITEMENT AMONG TEACHERS IN RELATION TO SALARIES.

Another cause of excitement, less extended, was occasioned by a report that the salaries of the teachers, under the new law, in its order for uniformity throughout the State, would be the same as those of the teachers of the counties. The salaries of the teachers of the counties being much less, throughout all the various grades, than those of the city, the imagined reduction, in its relations of deteriorated character, no less than those of pecuniary inconvenience, induced impulses of uneasiness, which, in the proportions of their effect upon the mind, prevented the full development of the teacher's ability. In some of the instances in which this feeling has been exhibited, but partial satisfaction has been realized from the assurance that the purpose of the Legislature in the adoption of a uniform system of public education could not be that of reducing the city schools to the lower level of those of the counties, but must be that of elevating the schools of the counties to the higher level occupied by those of the city.

I allude to these matters in the view of satisfying commissioners and others who have noticed a depression apparent on the minds of some of the teachers, and also of assuring the teachers themselves of the improbability of such legislation by the General Assembly of the State as will damage any of the State's or city's interests in the working of their public schools. I have been assured by members of

the Legislature from several of the counties that it is their purpose to labor, as they may have opportunity, in the effort to raise the schools of their counties to the position occupied by those of the city of Baltimore, and doubtless such will be the moving impulse of the representatives of all the counties. If assurance may be assumed from the intelligence and patriotism of our legislators of the General Assembly, there is no cause for the fear that they will so involve the interests of the improved schools of the city with those of the counties as to depreciate those of the city, when they desire and design the elevation of the schools of the counties together with those of the city. The true ideal of progress, in this relation, is the advancement of the city schools to the highest possible attainment, and the effort to produce the most rapid improvement that can be effected in those of the counties. This appears to be the most sensible view that can be taken of the subject, and there can be no doubt of its being approved by the people alike of the city and of the counties. All are desirous of securing the best possible standard of education and the most improved schools. It is admitted that the public schools of Baltimore city, in their working as a system, are inferior to none in the country, and that they are keeping progress with the schools of other cities which have been much longer in the service. This position of excellence has been attained by very close attention, and in the expenditure of much means and labor. It is by this process that the future success of the system, and its improvement, are to be secured. At this point of our progress great care should be exercised in legislation. A single false step may essentially damage the schools. It is therefore to be expected that no act, either of the State Legislature, or of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, will be ordered in their detriment, but that every facility may be afforded to continue their advancement.